

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid having a nucleic acid sequence of at least ~~90%~~ 80% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 2, which is anti-apoptotically active.

2. - 7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, having a nucleic acid sequence of at least 95% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 2.

9. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, having an anti-apoptotic activity of at least 70% inhibition.

10. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, having an anti-apoptotic activity of at least 80% inhibition.

11. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, having an anti-apoptotic activity of at least 90% inhibition.

12. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, having an anti-apoptotic activity of at least 95% inhibition.

13. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid having a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 and SEQ ID NO: 2.

14. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical preparation comprising the isolated nucleic acid of claim 1 in combination with a pharmaceutical vehicle.

15. (Previously presented) A diagnostic test kit comprising the isolated nucleic acid of claim 1 in combination with positive and negative controls.

16. (Previously presented) A method of manufacturing the isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, comprising chemically synthesizing the nucleic acid using a DNA/RNA synthesizer.

17. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, having a nucleic acid sequence of at least 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 2.

18. (New) An isolated nucleic acid having a nucleic acid sequence of at least 90% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 2.

19. (New) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 18, having a nucleic acid sequence of at least 95% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 1 or SEQ ID NO: 2.

20. (New) A pharmaceutical preparation comprising the isolated nucleic acid of claim 18 in combination with a pharmaceutical vehicle.